

REMARKS

Claims 23-32, 44 and 45 are now pending in the application. Claims 44 and 45 have been added as new. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 AND 103

Claims 23-25 and 28-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Looper et al (U.S. Pat. No. 5,023,999, hereinafter "Looper"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 26 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Looper. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants note that Looper does not provide a modular power tool configurable in left and right hand orientations. Rather, Looper discloses that "[e]xternally, the circular saw 10 appears to be of conventional construction." (col. 1, lines 63-65). The "conventional construction" disclosed in Looper appears to have a single orientation. Looper does not teach structure providing for coupling a drive housing to a first side of a symmetrical handle to provide a left hand orientation and providing for coupling a drive housing to a second side of the symmetrical handle to provide a right hand orientation as claimed.

As such, claim 23 appears to be in condition for allowance. Claim 24-32 depend from claim 23 and should be in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth above. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 23-32 are respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 AND 103

Claims 44 and 45 have been added as new. Claims 44 and 45 depend from claim 23 and should be in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth above.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 5, 2007

Electronic Signature: /Ryan W. Massey/

Ryan W. Massey, Reg. No. 38,543
Jeremy Plenzler, Reg. No. 56,432

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

RWM/JMP/jmd